

MEMORANDUM

TO: Michele Walker, Director
Division of School Assessment, Indiana Department of Education (IDOE)

FROM: Huynh Huynh, University of South Carolina (Consultant)

RE: National Expert Report on Standard Setting (Biology I)

DATE: September 12, 2007

I was asked to review the draft Summary Report on the setting process and results of the Indiana Core 40 End-of-Course Assessment for Biology I. The report was written by Questar and was dated 8/07/2007. It records a general description of the standard setting process, panelists' ratings, and impact data for a range of moderated (adjusted) cut scores for the Pass and Pass+ categories. Per IDOE request, I will provide a short assessment on the appropriateness of the process.

As indicated in the report, the item mapping (aka Bookmark) was used in the round of standard setting by Questar and a previous contractor on setting standard for other parts of the Core 40 assessment system. The method is appropriate for tests because it works with both multiple-choice and constructed response items, which is the case of Biology I. The document indicates that Questar followed the professional standards in the field in soliciting panelists' judgments and in compiling the data for subsequent statistical analysis and policy deliberation.

It was appropriate for the Department to state explicitly at the beginning of the standard setting meeting that the panelists' recommendations are advisory and that the final cut scores would be set by the Indiana State Board of Education after taking into account the panelists' recommendation, the uncertainty of measurement, and consistency of data across subject areas and grade levels. Various measures of uncertainty were reported in the document.

At the end of the report, impact data were provided for a range of cut scores within one-half of the combined standard error. This type of data should be useful in moderating (aka articulating) cut scores and impact data across the whole range of Core 40 assessments.

All in all, my general impression is that the methodology is appropriate and carried out in a professional manner by the contractor, and therefore the results reflected faithfully the perceptions of the panelists regarding where achievement standards should be set for Indiana students in the test under consideration.

**Biology I ECA Cut Score Setting Committee
Round-by-Round Results**

	Recommended Cut Scaled Scores		Impact Data		
	Pass Cut Score	Pass+ Cut Score	Percent Did Not Pass	Percent Pass	Percent Pass+
Round 1 Panel Recommendation	509	618	50	43	7
Round 2 Panel Recommendation	509	646	50	47	3
Round 3 Panel Recommendation	509	646	50	47	3

Indiana Department of Education Recommendation

The Department of Education, in consideration of the recommendations of the Biology I End-of-Course Cut Score Setting Committee and Expert Panel and the 2004 Education Roundtable Guidelines for Setting ISTEP+ Passing Scores, recommends that the Education Roundtable recommend and the State Board of Education set the Biology I ECA Pass cut scaled score at 509 and the Pass+ cut scaled score at 646.